



QUALITY OF CARE AND OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF A SYSTEMATIC FAMILIAL SCREENING IN IDIOPATHIC DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY. THE EXPERIENCE OF TRIESTE HEART MUSCLE DISEASE

ACC Poster Contributions
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Background: Familial screening of patients with dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) allows an early diagnosis of the disease in family members. It is unclear if familial forms of DCM (FDC) have a different long-term outcome with respect to the sporadic DCM. The aim of this study was to compare long-term prognosis of FDC with respect to sporadic forms in order to assess the role of familial screening.

Methods: From 1988 to 2007 we enrolled 637 consecutive DCM patients in the Trieste Heart Muscle Disease Registry. We compared non-proband FDC patients (NP-FDC) with a sample of 96 sporadic forms, randomly matched by year of enrolment (2:1) in order to increase the efficiency of comparisons.

Results: FDC were 130 (20.4%), 82 (12.9%) were probands. The familial screening effectively diagnosed DCM in 48 (7.5%) NP-FDC patients. With respect to the random sample, NP-FDC patients at enrollment were younger (40 ± 16 vs 47 ± 13 years, $p=0.002$), less severely symptomatic (NYHA class III-IV 8% vs 28%, $p=0.006$), had higher left ventricular ejection fraction (35 ± 10 vs $30 \pm 9\%$, $p=0.005$). The survival free from heart transplant at 2, 5 and 10 years was respectively 93, 91 and 82% in NP-FDC patients versus 86, 76 and 62% of sporadic forms ($p=0.04$). After stratification for NYHA classes, no difference in survival has been observed between sporadic and NP-FDC patients.

Conclusions: FDC represented 20% of our population. Familial screening of DCM patients allowed early recognition of 7.5% of patients. NP-FDC patients which had less advanced disease at presentation and a better long-term outcome.